

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, GB

SUBJ: GRAND POUBARA DAM PROJECT

REF: STATE 11083

1. EMBASSY THANKS USDOC FOR EFFORTS REFTEL AND PROVIDES FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

2. UNTIL SEVERAL MONTHS AGO IT WAS PLANNED TO BUILD DAM NEAR BOOUE TO PROVIDE ELECTRICITY FOR FERRO-MANGANESE PLANT. IT RECENTLY DECIDED THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE VIABLE AND GRAND POUBARA SIGHT WAS CHOSEN. FEASIBILITY STUDIES STILL UNDER WAY BY SEEG (GABONESE ELECTRICAL COMPANY) BUT SHOULD BE COMPLETED SHORTLY. EMBASSY WILL FORWARD COPY AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.

3. FINANCING HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED, BUT MINISTRY OF MINE SOURCES STATED EXIM TYPE FINANCING WOULD PROBABLY BE SOUGHT.

3. COMILOG AND OKURA TRADING COMPANY OF JAPAN ARE CURRENTLY PUTTING TOGETHER COMPANY TO BUILD FERRO-MANGANESE PLANT, MOST LIKELY INCLUDING COMPANIES FROM FRANCE, BELGIUM, NORWAY, ITALY AND U.S. (UNION CARBIDE) PLUS GOG. CURRENT GOAL IS FOR PLANT TO START OPERATING IN 1980, WHEN TRANSGABON WILL BE AVAILABLE TO EVACUATE ITS PRODUCTION. THUS, GRAND POUBARA WOULD

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HAVE TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE 1980. CURRENT THINKING

OF FERRO-MANGANESE GROUP IS THAT ELECTRICITY SHOULD
BE AVAILABLE TO PLANT AT PRICE OF ABOUT TWO FRANCS
PER KW/HOUR.
MCKESSON

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